

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard A. Morgan on 09 March 2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace all previous versions of the claims with the complete listing of claims provided at the end of this office action.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest a method of remote delivery and manipulation of a miniature tool adjacent a work piece in a restricted space comprising, in combination with the other recited steps, providing a manipulator apparatus with a carriage assembly which includes first and second movable track members, the carriage assembly including first and second pistons for operating the first and second track members; and a remote hydraulic actuator for operating the carriage assembly; delivering the manipulator apparatus; and operating the carriage assembly by actuating the remote hydraulic actuator and thereby causing one or both track members to move relative to the work piece.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rose M Miller whose telephone number is 571-272-2199. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Art Unit: 2856

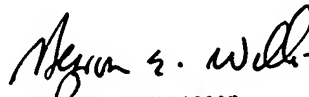
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 571-272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



RMM

9 March 2004



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